

MEETING OF

THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy. Dover, Delaware, March 14, 2007, with the following members in attendance:

Robert F. Garey, Chairman	Mark Davis (representing Michael T. Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture)
William Vanderwende, Vice Chairman	Kevin Coyle (representing John Hughes, Secretary of DNREC)
Lyn Davenport, Secretary	Jack Markell, State Treasurer
W. Allen Jones, Treasurer	L. Allen Messick, Jr.
Theodore P. Bobola, Jr.	

Absent: G. Ray Staats.

The following staff members were in attendance: Michael McGrath, Scott Blaier, Howard Mesick, Milton Melendez, Danielle Klosowski, Cathy Mesick, and Robin West.

Others in attendance: F. Michael Parkowski, Margot Taylor (Delaware Nature Society), and Mr. Phil Tuthill.

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. with an introduction for the new Board member, Mr. L. Allen Messick, Jr., and with the opening prayer.

I. Progress Report:

Robin West gave an explanation of the new format of the Progress Report, which shows information regarding the parcels that are leaving the program at the expiration of the District Agreements covering those parcels. After discussion concerning farms which are leaving the program, Milton Melendez informed the Board that we have a total of 932 farms in preservation districts totaling 144,463 acres, with a total of 462 farms under agricultural easements totaling 82,175 acres at a cost of \$119,344,261. For PDR 12 there are a total of 116 farms comprising 15,925 acres with a value of \$247,272,924 to be considered for purchase of development rights.

Treasurer Jack Markell wanted to know the average discount for all Purchase of Development Rights rounds. Mike McGrath stated that it was 51% for all PDR rounds. Michael Parkowski then talked about the work of PELSA Company, Inc. which has been done in a timely manner, allowing us to keep to our schedule. Mr. Parkowski requested a letter from the Board to commend PELSA for their outstanding work. The Board agreed to this and directed staff to prepare the letter. Jack Markell wanted to know what we need to do to show we have accomplished our goal of preserving farmland in Delaware. Mike McGrath said that our goal is to have one half of the agricultural land in Delaware in the preservation program, and, of that, one half to be under permanent easement. Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. mentioned Transfer of Development Rights and his concerns about the devaluation of land. Discussion followed concerning TDRs.

Robin West introduced Margot Taylor of the Delaware Nature Society, and explained her involvement with the Coverdale Farm and her interest in preserving farmland in Delaware.

II. District Eligibility:

1. N & M Burton Farm District, ID#S-07-01-245. After discussion **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility the N & M Burton Farm District, seconded by Allen Jones. Motion unanimously approved.**

III. Forestland Preservation Area Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Pleasanton Forestland Preservation Area, ID#F-K-06-12-141E. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Pleasanton Forestland Preservation Area, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

2. Pine Grove Hunt Club Forestland Preservation Area, ID#F-K-93-12-020A. After discussion, **Lyn Davenport moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Pine Grove Hunt Club Forestland Preservation Area, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

IV. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval:

1. Long Point Farm Expansion of the Whitby Farms LP District, ID#K-06-12-067J. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Long Point Farm Expansion of the Whitby Farms LP District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
2. Smith's Bridge Expansion of the Coverdale Farm District, ID#N-06-12-240A. After discussion, **Kevin Coyle moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Smith's Bridge Expansion of the Coverdale Farm District, seconded by Allen Jones. Motion unanimously approved.**
3. Paul Hastings Farm Expansion of the Old Morgan School District, ID#S-06-12-016K. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Paul Hastings Expansion of the Old Morgan School District, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**
4. Riddle Expansion #1 of the Collins Acres District, ID#S-06-12-065K. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Riddle Expansion #1 of the Collins Acres District, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion unanimously approved.**
5. Riddle Expansion #2 of the Collins Acres District, ID#S-06-12-065L. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Riddle Expansion #2 of the Collins Acres District Area, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**
6. Riddle Expansion #3 of the Collins Acres District, ID#S-06-12-065M. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Riddle Expansion #3 of the Collins Acres District, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion unanimously approved.**
7. Riddle Expansion #4 of the Collins Acres District, ID#S-06-12-065N. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Riddle Expansion #4 of the Collins Acres District Area, seconded by Mark Davis. Motion unanimously approved.**
8. Harry Isaacs Jr. Expansion of the Isaacs #3 Reed Jensen District, ID#S-06-10-156C. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Harry Isaacs Jr. Expansion of the Isaacs #3 Reed Jensen District, seconded by Kevin Coyle. Motion unanimously approved.**
9. Warrington Tract Expansion of the Stayton's District, ID#S-06-12-205F. After discussion, **Lyn Davenport moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Warrington Tract Expansion of the Stayton's District, seconded by Jack Markell. Motion unanimously approved.**
10. Wells Expansion of the Sylvester District, ID#S-07-01-228B. After discussion, **Allen Jones moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Wells Expansion of the Sylvester District, seconded by Jack Markell. Motion unanimously approved.**
11. Swartzentruber Expansion of the Molasses Street District, ID#S-06-11-138D. After discussion, **William Vanderwende moved to accept for eligibility/final approval the Swartzentruber Expansion of the Molasses Street District, seconded by Jack Markell. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Public Comments – No public comments were received.

- VI. Minutes - Chairman Garey asked if there were additions or corrections to the January 10, 2007 minutes. Receiving no additions or corrections to the minutes, **Allen Jones moved the minutes be approved, seconded by William Vanderwende. Motion unanimously approved.**

- VII. Financial Highlights:

Cathy Mesick informed the Foundation Board that we had, as of January 31, 2007, \$28,172.75 in the Foundation's checking account. The Foundation's interest bearing State of Delaware account had a balance of \$348,344.71. We received \$2.58 revenue for the month of January made up of rollback taxes from Sussex County. Expenditures for the month of January totaled \$7,683.07. And for the month of February, 2007, we had \$28,147.75 in the Foundation's checking account and \$348,859.38 in the State of Delaware account. Revenues for the month of February were \$186.01 in roll back taxes from Sussex County. Expenditures were \$7,827.92 for the month of February. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept the Financial Report as presented, seconded by Lyn Davenport. Motion unanimously approved.**

Cathy Mesick presented a memorandum dated February 12, 2007 from the bookkeeper, Howard Mesick, requesting transfers of funds from one account to another. There was no change in the over all budgeted amounts. After discussion, **Jack Markell moved to accept the transfers of funds from one account to another from the memorandum dated February 12, 2007, seconded by Theodore P. Bobola, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.**

- VII. Executive Session – There was no need for an Executive Session.

- VIII. Other Business:

Mike McGrath informed the Board that the recommendations of the State Auditor's Office have been implemented.

- IX. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Foundation, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation will be held on April 11, 2007 at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lyn Davenport
Secretary